

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/992,008

Examiner

Inder P. Mehra

Applicant(s)

MILLS ET AL.

Art Unit

2617

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment dated 9/5/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 20, 10-12, 14-15, 5, 9, 6-8, and 21-25 (Renumbered as 1-20 respectively).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 7/22/02
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 9/12/02.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

  
**JOHN PEZZLO**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

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### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This office action is in response to amendment dated: 9/5/06. Based on this amendment, claims 1-12, 14-15, and 20-25 are pending. Claim 13 and 16-19 were cancelled previously.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kendal M. Sheets, Attorney, Reg. No. 47,077 on 9/12/06. The application has been amended as follows:

Refer to claim 1, line 16. "said a processor" has been changed to --said processor--.

Refer to claim 10, line 1. "claim 1" has been changed to --claim 4--.

Refer to claim 20, line 4. "signals," has been changed to --signals--.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1-12, 14-15, and 20-25 are allowed.

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

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The prior art of record does not disclose, teach or suggest directly, or indirectly the following limitations in combinations with other limitations of the claims, as follows:

**As recited by claim 1,**

“processor and said system communication bus, for communicating said measured characteristic of each of said strongest local participant input signals, to said plurality of remote conferencing nodes; and

a demultiplexer, connected with said processor and said system communication bus, for receiving said measured characteristic of each of said significant signals of remote participant input signals from said plurality of conferencing nodes;

wherein said processor compares said measured characteristic of each of said strongest signals of said local participant input signals and said strongest remote participant input signals”.

**As recited by claim 21,**

“comparing, in each node, the measured power levels of the local input signals with the measured power levels of the remote input signals to determine the local input signals and the remote input signals with highest power levels;

determining, in said local conference node and said remote conference node, an aggregate sum of said remote input signals and said local input signals having said highest power levels from said comparing and

Transmitting said aggregate sum to each of said local communication channels and said remote communication channels as an output”.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Inder P. Mehra whose telephone number is 571-272-3170. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8AM to 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on 571-272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*Inder Pal Mehra 9/13/06*  
Inder P Mehra  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2617

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